

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for controlling vacuum distribution in an exposer for recording printing originals, which comprises the steps of:

holding firmly a recording material of a printing original on a supporting surface by vacuum, the recording material being attracted by suction by a vacuum pump through suction grooves machined into the supporting surface and through suction ducts connected to the suction grooves; and

opening and closing the suction ducts by manipulating valves each having a respective piston rod and a piston, the valves being closed by a mechanical force from a mechanical actuator applied by the mechanical actuator physically contacting the respective piston rod, and the valves being opened by an action of compressed air on [[a]] the piston in each of the valves.

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Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises opening all of the valves simultaneously.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises integrating an outlet opening for the compressed air into the actuator.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises:

disposing the suction ducts and the valves in an exposure drum; and

disposing the actuator outside the exposure drum.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the exposer records on printing plates.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An apparatus for controlling vacuum distribution in an exposer for recording printing originals, comprising:

a supporting surface for receiving a recording material of a printing original, said supporting surface having suction grooves machined therein and through said suction grooves the

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recording material is attracted to said supporting surface by suction;

suction ducts connected to said suction grooves;

valves disposed in a valve block, said valves for opening and closing said suction ducts, each of said valves having a respective piston rod and a respective piston, said valves being opened by compressed air acting on said pistons; and

~~a mechanical actuator configured to selectively push said piston rods into said valve block with a mechanical force for closing selected ones of said valves with a force applied by said mechanical actuator physically contacting said respective piston rod.~~

Claim 7 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said valves each contain:

a bush having a wall with drilled holes formed therein, said piston rod being displaced in said bush.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said piston rod closes and opens said drilled holes.

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Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said mechanical actuator has an outlet opening formed therein for channeling the compressed air.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said valve block has a negative-pressure duct and a compressed-air duct formed therein, said valves connected to said negative-pressure duct and said compressed-air duct.

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the exposer records on printing plates.

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Drawing Amendments

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2.

This sheet which includes Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 2. In Fig. 2, previously omitted vacuum pump and rotary lead through were added and designated with the reference symbols 64 and 65 respectively.

Please approve the drawing changes that are marked in red on the accompanying "Annotated Sheet Showing Changes" of Figs. 1 and 2. A formal "Replacement Sheet" of amended Fig. 2 is also enclosed.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes